Title: Need to bring the Women's (Reservation) Bill, in Parliament and also to publish a book on the contributions of women Members of Parliament.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (CANARA): Sir, we celebrated 50 years of the founding of Parliament on the 13th May. There was a great deal of talk about the achievements of Parliament since its institution. I must point out however that despite the role played by women in the freedom movement and the guarantees given under the Constitution, participation of women in the two Houses has been far below what it should be, though we represent 50 per cent of the population.

Sir, we are today eight per cent and we have never crossed ten per cent. I am, therefore, today standing on this question, just after that historic occasion, in Parliament, to say that the commitment made to the women to bring the Women's (Reservation) Bill through consensus, be kept. The Prime Minister has made a promise that he is working on a consensus. We never seem to hear about it. I would, therefore, demand today that as a tribute to 50 Years of India's Parliament, the Women's (Reservation) Bill be listed for discussion, debated and if they do not want it, be defeated, but let it come to Parliament. Let it be debated and decided on....(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I am sure, Sir, you, from the Chair, are also supporting us....(*Interruptions*) I am, therefore, appealing you to take an initiative to list it for discussion....(*Interruptions*) I would also like to say that a book on the Contribution of Women Members of Parliament, since the Provisional Parliament, may also be published.â€¦ (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, we also support it....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All women Members are supporting it.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (AURANGABAD, BIHAR): Sir, if necessary, we should have a Special Session for this.

MR. SPEAKER: All women Members can stand up and say that they are supporting it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Sir, we, gentlemen, are also supporting it.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (TIRUNELVELI): Sir, we are also supporting it.

MR. SPEAKER: Most of the Members have supported it.